Victorian Values

On 3 February 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, George Bristow, the master of Bersham Board School, wrote in his log book:

"Devoted a whole lesson to loyalty.
Reason for the term 'Diamond' – recalled the Jubilee Year – compared our country with others – immunity from invasion and civil strife – growth of commerce – change in methods of communication and locomotion – Christian character of Her Majesty.
Finally concluding with the National Anthem."

Mr Bristow did not usually teach this lesson to his class, but the values he was teaching were typical of the time. Queen Victoria had been monarch for sixty years and she reigned over an Empire upon which the sun never set.

Yet all was not still, the Victorians saw huge changes in their lifetimes. These changes were inspired by how Victorian people saw and judged the world around them. Their values left their mark on Wrexham and the surrounding communities. This exhibition explores some of those values: the importance of learning, philanthropy, morality, loyalty, hierarchy, industry and progress; how these values affected the lives of local people, who benefited and who suffered.

There are many primary sources still available if you would like to research deeper into the nineteenth-century history of Wrexham and its surrounding communities.

Census returns, the minutes of the Wrexham Poor Law Guardians, log books of local board schools, the records of the Quarter Sessions and microfilm copies of the ***Wrexham Advertiser*** and the ***Wrexham Guardian*** are just a few of the fascinating resources available in local archives.

Gwerthoedd Oes Fictoria

Ar 3 Chwefror,1897, blwyddyn Jiwbili Arian y Frenhines Fictoria, ysgrifennodd George Bristow, ysgolfeistr Ysgol Bwrdd Y Bers, y canlynol yn ei lyfr log:

"Devoted a whole lesson to loyalty.
Reason for the term 'Diamond' – recalled the Jubilee Year – compared our country with others – immunity from invasion and civil strife – growth of commerce – change in methods of communication and locomotion – Christian character of Her Majesty.
Finally concluding with the National Anthem."

Fel rheol, ni fyddai Mr Bristow yn dysgu'r math yma o wers i'w ddosbarth, ond roedd y gwerthoedd a gyflwynai yn nodweddiadol o'r cyfnod. Roedd y Frenhines Fictoria wedi bod ar yr orsedd am drigain mlynedd a theyrnasai dros Ymerodraeth nad oedd yr haul byth yn machlud arni.

Serch hynny, nid oedd popeth yn aros yn ei unfan, a gwelodd pobl oes Fictoria newidiadau mawr yn eu bywydau. Cafodd y newidiadau hyn eu hysbrydoli gan y modd y gwelai pobl oes Fictoria y byd a sut roedden nhw'n barnu'r byd o'u cwmpas. Gadawodd y gwerthoedd hyn eu hôl ar Wrecsam a chymunedau eraill y cylch. Mae'r arddangosfa hon yn ystyried rhai o'r gwerthoedd hynny; pwysigrwydd dysg; dyngarwch; moesoldeb; teyrngarwch; hierarchaeth, diwydiant a chynnydd; sut yr effeithiodd y gwerthoedd hyn ar fywydau pobl leol, pwy a elwodd a phwy a ddioddefodd.

Mae llawer o ffynonnellau cynradd ar gael o hyd pe baech chi'n dymuno ymchwilio i hanes Wrecsam a chymunedau eraill y cylch mewn mwy o fanylder.

Mae adroddiadau'r Cyfrifiadau, cofnodion cyfarfodydd Ceidwaid Deddf y Tlodion yn Wrecsam, llyfrau log ysgolion bwrdd lleol a chofnodion y Llys Chwarter ynghyd â chopïau microffilm o'r ***Wrexham Advertiser*** a'r ***Wrexham Guardian*** ymhlith y nifer fawr o adnoddau diddorol sydd ar gael yn yr archifau lleol.

High Street, Wrexham
Stryt Fawr, Wrecsam

"A spirit of progressive improvement has of late manifested itself in this town and neighbourhood."

Wrexham Registrar, 1848
Cofrestrydd Wrecsam, 1848

Mount Street, Wrexham
Eglwys y Plwyf o'r Grîn, Wrecsam

"Up fellow townsmen and be doing! Awake from your ignoble slumbers, and join in the universal and accelerating march of intelligence, liberty and religion."

Wrexham Registrar, 1848
Cofrestrydd Wrecsam, 1848

"This is an age of improvement and discovery and intellectual progress, beyond any that has gone before it.

Wrexham Recorder 1848

What did these people in Wrexham think were Victorian values?
Beth oedd barn y bobl hyn yn Wrecsam am werthoedd oes Fictoria?

wrexham COUNTY BOROUGH
BWRDEISTREF SIROL wrecsam

Acknowledgements~Cydnabyddiaeth: Wrexham Archives Service, W.A.Williams, C.J.Williams, Bark Design.